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PATENT
2173-0120P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Keiji ENDO et al. CONF.: 2206
SERIAL NO: 09/590,375 GROUP: 1652
FILED: June 9, 2000 EXAMINER: E. Slobodyansky
FOR: MUTANT α -AMYLASES

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 28, 2003

Sir:

The following preliminary remarks and amendments are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following claims:

--12. A mutant α -amylase obtained by making a substitution or deletion of at least one amino acid residue of specific positions in SEQ ID NO:1, or by making a substitution or deletion of at least one amino acid residue corresponding to the above-mentioned amino acid residue in a sequence having at least 95% homology to SEQ ID NO:1,

wherein said at least one amino acid residue is selected from the group consisting of: